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- (b) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies had previously approved of the issue of such circulars;
- (c) in how many and in what districts such circulars were issued;
- (d) whether co-operative societies protested against such action of the assistant registrars;
- (e) whether he will be pleased to give a list of primary co-operative societies in the district of North Arcot which were thus made to reduce their rates of interest by (i)  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, (ii) by  $\frac{1}{16}$ th per cent per annum and (iii)  $1\frac{9}{16}$ th per cent per annum;
- (f) whether the provincial bank wanted the primary societies to reduce their rates only by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum; and
- (g) if so, what action, if any, has been taken in the case of assistant registrars in thus coercing primary societies to unduly reduce their rates of interest?

A.—(a) & (c) A conference of representatives of all co-operative financing banks, including the Madras Central Bank and the Provincial Co-operative Conference, discussed the question of reduction in the rate of interest in December 1922. Thereafter the Assistant Registrars brought to the notice of primary societies by circulars and otherwise the resolution of the conference and suggested to them the desirability of reducing the rate of interest.

- (b) The Registrar's previous approval to the circulars was not necessary.
- (d) No.
- (e) The information is not available.
- (f) The Provincial Bank desired primary societies to reduce their rates of interest by at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.
- (g) There was no coercion in the matter. The Government have no reason to think that the reduction in the rate of interest was excessive.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With reference to (e) of the question, may I know why the information is not available, and what the difficulty in getting it is ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ The difficulty is in getting tabulated information for about 500 societies.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ The question does not relate to all the societies ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It is only by collecting the information from all these 500 societies that we would be in a position to give the required answer.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With regard to (g), the answer is that there was no coercion in the matter. I understand from a reliable authority that loans were refused to such societies as did not adopt the reduction recommended by the Assistant Registrar. Will the hon. Minister kindly look into the matter ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ If particulars are given, certainly I shall enquire.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ I believe I have given particulars. If necessary, I have no objection to repeat them.”



[4th March 1925]

*Functions delegated to honorary assistant registrars.*

\* 325 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to his answer to question No. 1091, dated 21st October 1924—

(a) whether he is aware of any function delegated to honorary assistant registrars which the members of the existing co-operative unions cannot discharge and if so, what they are;

(b) whether selected members of co-operative unions cannot be authorized to decide arbitration cases and to hold inquiries under section 35 of the Co-operative Societies Act and also whether such a thing is not already done in many instances;

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether there is any need for incurring additional expenditure by Government in appointing honorary assistant registrars;

(d) whether representations have been received by Government from Ramnad district as well as from Madras not to appoint honorary assistant registrars; and

(e) what is the reason for making these appointments in spite of the protests of unions?

A.—(a) The functions of an honorary Assistant Registrar can be discharged by a member of a local supervising union provided he has the necessary leisure, status and means.

(b) There is nothing to prevent the Assistant Registrar from authorizing a member of a co-operative union to decide arbitration cases and to hold inquiries under section 35 of the Co-operative Societies Act. This is actually being done in many cases.

(c) & (e) The question is under the consideration of Government.

(d) A resolution that the appointment of honorary Assistant Registrars in the area of the Banking Union, Srivilliputtur, in the Ramnad district, was not required was passed at a meeting of the representatives of unions in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks in February 1924. The Government understand that at the Provincial Co-operative Conference held in December 1924, a resolution was passed recommending the abolition of honorary Assistant Registrars, but that resolutions have been passed by a number of other co-operative bodies urging the continuance of the system.

*Speech of hon. Minister for Development at the Guntur District Co-operative Conference.*

\* 326 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to his answer (d) to interpellation No. 1091 in the Council meeting, dated 21st October 1924, where he stated that non-officialization received much stronger support from 'outsiders'—

(a) whether he could give the names of those 'outsiders' and also publish such opinions; and